

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1-7. *(cancelled)*
8. *(new)* A method for the detection of sepsis in an individual suspected of having sepsis, the method comprising:
- a) obtaining a plasma or serum sample from the individual;
 - b) contacting said sample with an antibody specific for pro-atrial natriuretic factor (pro-ANF) and
 - c) determining the level of pro-ANF, wherein an increased level of pro-ANF as compared to healthy individuals is indicative of sepsis.
9. *(new)* The method of claim 8 further comprising the determination of at least one other indicator of sepsis.
10. *(new)* The method of claim 9 wherein said at least one other indicator is procalcitonin.